

**PRIMARY USE:** Minimize bank erosion.

**ADDITIONAL USES:** Enhance aesthetics through the establishment of vegetation.

## TURF

**What is it?** The installation of turf is a popular soil stabilization technique which uses grasses growing on slopes to stabilize the uppermost zone in a riparian corridor.

### Purpose

It is suitable wherever grass provides adequate protection, where permanent upkeep is possible, and where it is not possible to plant trees.



### Limitations

Turf requires regular mowing and adequate soil moisture. On steep slopes or around scattered trees and shrubs, cutting can be done only by hand. Grasses yield to high water and are layered against the surface so that fast moving water meets almost no obstacle. However the layering of the grasses and their root system provides significant protection against bank erosion.

### Materials

Select appropriate grass species that are suitable to climatic zone.

### Installation

Grass is established by sowing or by laying squares or strips of turf. The second system is preferable as it ensures protection rapidly. If for any reason it is not possible to lay an unbroken stretch of turf, then the strips are laid in crossed lines, or squares in a checkered pattern. The gaps are filled with humus, sown, or planted. If humus cannot be obtained, it is recommended that sowing on a layer of straw be employed in order to obtain an unbroken stretch of grass quickly.

**Source:** Freshwater: Three Studies, Seibert.